

March 9, 2011  
(H) State administration  
SB 204

EXHIBIT #3  
DATE 3-9-11  
HB SB 204

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the committee, for the record my name is Mike Fellows and I live in Missoula. I'm also Chairman of the Montana Libertarian Party. I rise in opposition to SB 204. Citizens have always had the right to redress our grievances against the state since we live in a Constitutional Republic and our elected leaders are elected by the people. You represent us. When that representation fails citizens have recourse. We either recall our representatives or we get a group of like minded individuals <sup>and</sup> ~~are~~ bypass this body and take our issue straight to the citizens. SB 204 would make that process much harder. I know people including myself don't always support the issues being presented. I know the legislature doesn't like the fact of being left out by this process. But I do support the initiative process and any attempt to make it more difficult is not the answer. In 2010 we <sup>had</sup> ~~have~~ a total of 11 Constitutional initiatives proposed and 3 made it to the 2010 ballot. The process is difficult enough. We don't further stumbling blocks for citizens to address their frustration with their representatives. We are a nation of laws as John Adams <sup>said</sup> but we need those laws to protect dissenting individuals and minority groups from the tyranny of the majority. Let's protect the citizens right to address concerns that this body fails to do. I urge you to recommend a do not pass on SB 204. Thank you for your time.